

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

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E57

CHAPTER OF SORROW

OF THE

Order of the Eastern Star,

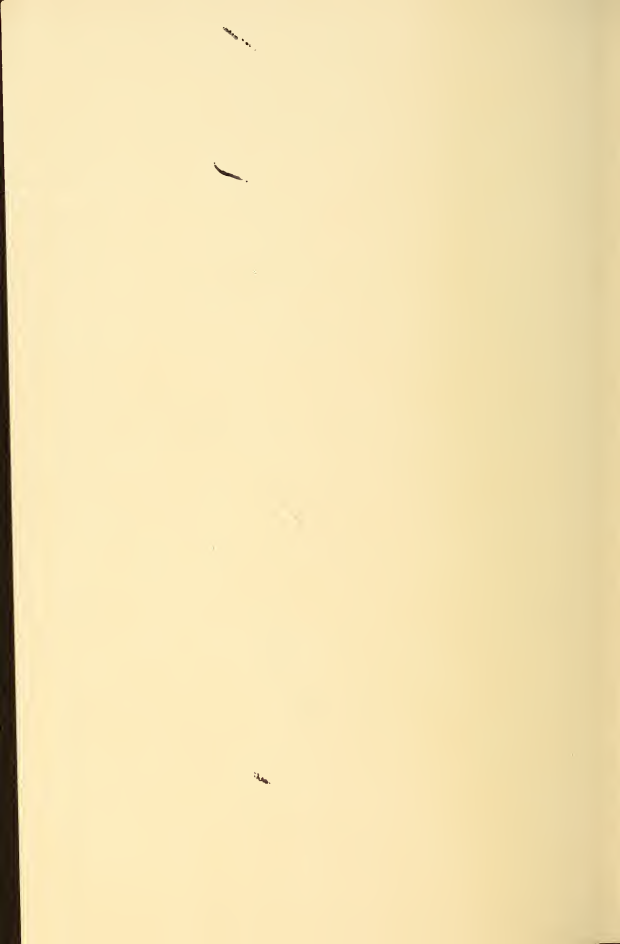
BY

ADDIE C. S. ENGLE.



INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

REV. WILLIS D. ENGLE, PUBLISHER.



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TO
THE MEMORY OF
ROB. MORRIS,
FOUNDER OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR,
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.

ROB. MORRIS,

July 31, 1888.

The harp which late so sweetly rang
Hangs stringless now and still ;
The master wakes its chords no more
Obedient to his will.

O, who shall wake again that lyre
And sing our Order's weal ?
Who follow in his steps, and to
Our vows be ever leal ?

The cause he loved he honored well,
Its light he followed far ;
Death's gloomy vale was all illumed
By Bethlehem's Holy Star ;

To chant with joy Redemption's song
May voice to him be given,
The song of Moses and the Lamb,
The melody of heaven.

SUGGESTIONS.

The wide-spreading growth of the Order of the Eastern Star has caused an increasing demand for a service, supplementing the prescribed Funeral Ceremonies, in commemoration of those who, year by year, are taken by the stern reaper, Death, and the following has been prepared and is submitted to the Order, to in some measure supply the need. Originality only is claimed for it, and if it is found useful for the purpose for which it is intended, its author will be satisfied.

The ceremonies may be rendered either publicly or privately. The chapter room and furniture should be appropriately draped, and there should be a small table east of the altar, between Adah and Electa, as a memorial shrine, on which should rest a wire design of a five-pointed star, in the points and center of which the floral filling may be deposited by the proper officers as the ceremonies proceed. It is preferable that the star should be so filled, but in case it is not practicable, a floral star may rest on the shrine, and flowers of appropriate colors may be deposited by the various officers.

The star officers should be each supplied with a triangular form, filled with appropriately colored flowers, the forms of the right size to drop into the proper point of the star design on the shrine; or with flowers of appropriate colors to place in the floral star already resting there. The Worthy Matron should have a five-sided form filled with white flowers, for the center of the star, or white flowers to place in the center of the floral star. She should also have a separate white rose, white lily, or tube rose, which she should wear until she deposits it on shrine.

The Associate Matron should have a green wreath large enough to encircle star on shrine. The Secretary should have a scroll on which is inscribed the names and dates of birth and death of those in whose memory the service is held. The Treasurer should have a key.

The Conductress should have a small Bible, and the Associate Conductress should have a membership badge and the official jewels of any officers whose memories are commemorated, each properly draped.

Vocal and instrumental music are indispensable to the proper rendering of the ceremonies.

The members should be previously instructed, that all the responses may be heartily given.

OPENING CEREMONY.

[The Worthy Patron will call members and guests to order
and say:]

W. P.—Sister Associate Conductress, you will invite
the Worthy Matron and her officers to enter the chapter
room.

[Worthy Patron calls up chapter, while officers enter to slow
music. Conductress escorts W. M. to dais, who says:]

W. M.—We will join in singing:

HYMN.

(AIR—"Friend after Friend Departs.")

As we life's journey tread,
How thick stand burial urns!
How often comes the warning dread
That dust to dust returns!

Alas my daughter, Jephthah's cry
Still echoes down the years,
Still Rachel mourns for those who die
With bitter, blinding tears.

What wilt thou, mourner pale?
To have those here again
Whom God hath called from this dark vale
Of sin, and grief, and pain?

Nay! Round our columns riven
Let evergreen o'er climb,
Fit type of Life Immortal given
Beyond the shores of time.

And who is this, whose word
Can lift the mourner's gloom?
The same whom sorrowing Martha heard
By Lazarus's sealed tomb.

"Be still!" He gently says,
"And know that I am God!
"God's ways are not like human ways,
"Submissive meet the rod.

"Then in the Easter morn
"Of God's eternal years *o.l. 55*
"The dead in Christ shall rise, new born,
"And live! Believe this?"

W. M.—Sister Warder, please direct the Sentinel to allow none to enter the chapter room until further orders.

[Warder opens door without knocks.]

Warder.—Worthy Matron, the Sentinel has received your instruction.

[*W. M.* seats chapter.]

W. M.—Sisters, brothers and friends: We have met to commemorate those of our number who have passed on before us to that bourne from whence no traveler returns. Worthy Patron, what is your station in a chapter of sorrow?

[As each officer is addressed he or she should rise and remain standing until the close of the opening ceremony.]

W. P.—My station is in the East, which is the source of Light, and admonishes me of my duty in this memorial service, which is to direct the minds of all to the Great Light of God's Word, and its comforting assurances to the bereaved.

W. M.—Sister Associate Matron, explain your duty in a chapter of sorrow?

A. M.—My duty is to impart the lesson conveyed by my badge of office, the refulgent sun, which teaches that the Sun of Righteousness can gild even the darkness of the grave and render forever radiant the land immortal.

W. M.—Sister Secretary, explain your duty?

Sec'y.—To teach the solemn lesson that soon for all of us the record of our earthly life will be forever closed, its lessons all repeated, its golden opportunities forever past, and that then the most momentous of all questions will be whether our names are inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life.

W. M.—Sister Treasurer, explain your duty.

Treas.—To teach the lesson that only such treasures as are laid where neither moth nor rust corrupt will be of use to us when called to render an account of life's labors.

W. M.—Sister Conductress, explain your duty.

Con.—To remind my sisters and brothers that the labyrinth of life is beset with perils, and that only One can so guide the traveler as to bring him safe to the heavenly goal.

W. M.—Sister Associate Conductress, explain your duty.

A. C.—My duty is to remind my sisters and brothers that due preparation must be made for the solemn mysteries of Eternity.

W. M.—Sisters Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa, you severally represent the rays of our guiding star. What lessons are we to derive from your stations there?

Adah.—My color, blue, the emblem of truth and fidelity, teaches us that those virtues must adorn our lives here to fit us for the life unending.

Ruth.—My color, yellow, the emblem of constancy, teaches us that we must be faithful in little things, must glean closely in any harvest field, if we would receive the "Well done" of the Master.

Esther.—My color, white, the emblem of purity, teaches us that our earth stains must all be cleansed away before we will be worthy to appear with those who walk in white raiment on the "hills of God."

Martha.—My color, green, the emblem of life on earth and of immortality, teaches us belief in Him who said "Because I live, ye shall live also."

Electa.—My color, red, the emblem of fervency, of suffering and of love, reminds us of that Love which suffered even unto death, that thereby He might conquer the grave.

W. M.—Sister Warder, from your station within the door of our chapter room, and from that of the Sentinel, which is outside, are there no lessons to be drawn?

Warder.—We would remind our sisters and brothers that

“ There is no fold, however watched and tended,
But one dead lamb is there;
There is no fireside, howsoe’r defended,
But has one vacant chair,”

And that the utmost vigilance on our part can not prevent the entrance of the Death Angel into our chapter room.

W. M.—Let us unite with the Worthy Patron (or chaplain) in prayer.

[Calls up chapter.]

PRAYER.

O God, whose days are without end, make us, we beseech Thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and the need of careful preparation for the great hereafter. We thank Thee for the blessed assurance in Thy Word that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life in Whom whosoever believeth shall live though he die; and for the hope we have that the friendships which brighten our earthly pilgrimage are continued beyond the grave, and that although we mourn, it is not as those without hope. Be with us in these solemn services; comfort us with a sense of Thy love, and the knowledge that Thou dost never willingly afflict or grieve the children of men. May we follow the leadings of the Star in the East until we too lay down the burdens of life, when unto us may an abundant entrance be given into the glories of the New Jerusalem. Amen.

Response.—So may it ever be.

W. M.—In loving commemoration of those who have passed through the labyrinth of earth, and entered the unknown life beyond, I now declare this chapter of sorrow duly opened.

[Seats the chapter.]

W. M.—Sister Warder, inform the Sentinel that the chapter is now opened.

[Warder opens door without raps.]

Warder.—Worthy Matron, the Sentinel has received your instructions.

[Here will follow such memorial addresses, obituary notices, eulogies, etc., as may be desired. Recitations and vocal music of an appropriate character may be interspersed.]

CLOSING CEREMONY.

W. M.—Sister Warder, please direct the Sentinel to allow none to enter the chapter room during our closing service.

[Warder opens door without raps.]

Warder.—Worthy Matron, the Sentinel has received your instructions.

W. M.—Worthy Patron, will you instruct us in the lessons and duties of this occasion?

W. P.—We have listened to the expressions of loving regret concerning those who once met with us in this chapter room who formed with us the golden chain, and at this altar offered the same vows and prayers as ourselves. They have bowed before that last enemy of the human race, and the places here which were once brightened by their presence shall know them no more forever. But their memories will be enshrined in our hearts until we too pass beyond the river. From this solemn memorial service we learn the uncertainty of life, the certainty of death, and the importance of the present moment, which alone is ours.

The name of our Order implies a belief in the Hand which centuries ago led the lowly shepherds on the plains

of Bethlehem to the Infant Christ; and its teachings impress the truths it was part of the Saviour's mission to convey.

Truth, Constancy, Purity, Faith and Charity, the five virtues distinctly taught by our Order, were urged upon His followers by Him who was named in prophecy the Word of God, the Lily of the Valley, the Sun of Righteousness, the Lamb of God and the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Those who have listened to the lectures received in this room must have recognized the types therein explained. Scripture teaches that the Immaculate Son of God offered His life in fulfillment of His Father's vow that the soul that sinneth it shall die; that He forsook His heavenly home for the manger cradle; that He interposed Himself to rescue His people from their certain and eternal doom; that He relied with a greater than Martha's faith upon His Father and His God; and that, like the martyrs of every age, having yielded all else, He sealed His testimony with His blood.

All these lessons fit us for usefulness and happiness here, but in an hour like this, none are so comforting as the belief of Martha that the *apparent* closing of the Christian's life is really but a pause—a turning of the leaf—to commence a page of new and grand inscription where the record shall be undisfigured by sin, and unstained by tears. The friends we mourn have entered upon that vast, inconceivable phase of existence we call eternity, and as they used the talents intrusted to them so will be their reward.

It only remains for us, when we have placed our dead out of our sight, to assist, if necessary, those they may have left behind, and to carry out the work they left undone. If their aims and efforts were ennobling and worthy, the promotion of those aims by us will be their

most fitting monument. The lesson of this hour is that we too are fast nearing

“The silent, unknown stream,”

and that soon these services may be held in our memory. Let us so live that when our summons comes we may depart in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, leaving the testimony of a useful, unselfish life, and an earnest faith in a blissful immortality. May it then be said of us—They are not, for God took them.

W. M.—In the Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star the color types form an important part of its impressive lessons. At this time we use the fragrant flowers as most expressive of our emotions. They are as beautiful as the graces of a lovely character, and as fragrant as the memory such leave—a rich legacy to those who come after them. In our Order they suggest many things which they do not to the outside world, and it is therefore appropriate that in the obsequies of our loved and lost they should bear an important part.

[Taking cluster of white flowers she descends to east side of shrine.]

It is peculiarly fitting that those officers who conducted candidates through the mysteries of our chapter work should assist when we commemorate those who have entered the sublime mysteries of the Grand Chapter beyond.

Sister Adah, please present your tribute to our memorial star.

[As each Star officer is addressed she will rise, and, during her response, she will place her point, or flowers, in proper place in star on shrine slowly and carefully, and return to place and stand there.]

Adah.—These blue flowers, symbolizing truth and fidelity, I place here as a token of our fidelity to the memory of the departed members of our Order.

W. M.—Sister Ruth.

Ruth.—These yellow flowers, symbolizing constancy, I place here as a token of our loyalty to the friends present and the friends who have only gone before.

W. M.—Sister Esther.

Esther.—These white flowers, symbolizing purity, I place here as an emblem of the purity of the ties which bind us to each other.

W. M.—Sister Martha.

Martha.—These green ferns (or sprigs), symbolizing immortality, I place here as expressive of our belief that

“There is no death; what seems so is transition:

This life of mortal breath

Is but a suburb of the life elysian,

Whose portal we call—Death.”

W. M.—Sister Electa.

Electa.—These red flowers, symbolizing fervency, I place here as evidence of the fervency of our esteem for those we mourn to-day.

W. M.—Sister Associate Conductress, what is your offering?

[Associate Conductress presents membership badge, and also, if an officer has died, the proper jewel, depositing same on shrine at north side of floral star.]

A. C.—This, the regalia worn by every member of our Order (and the jewel of the office which was this year left vacant), which I deposit upon our memorial shrine to remind us that all earthly robing, and all earthly honors are but dross; and that we must be clothed upon with Christ's righteousness if we would be His in that day when He maketh up His jewels.

[Takes position, standing between Martha and Electa.]

W. M.—Sister Conductress, what is your offering?

Conductress—

[Presenting small Bible and placing it on shrine at south side of star.]

This, that Word which is as a lamp unto the feet and

a light unto the path, that through the weary labyrinth of life we may never miss the tender leading of Bethlehem's Star, until for us it shall gild the portal of the heavenly city whose Builder and Maker is God.

[Takes position standing between Ruth and Esther.]

W. M.—Sister Treasurer, what offering have you?

Treasurer.—

[Coming to shrine and placing key beside badge.]

This, the key, an emblem of security, reminding us that the treasures we have here in earthen vessels, if securely guarded, will be ours more abundantly when, for us, the portals of heaven shall be unlocked.

[Retires to position between Electa and W. M.]

W. M.—Sister Secretary, what offering have you?

Secretary.—

[Coming to shrine and placing roll beside Bible.]

This, a memorial scroll, inscribed with loving care, which is expressive of the record left on the tablet of memory and reminds us that all earthly records must perish; but that there remaineth a Book of Remembrance for those that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His Name.

[Retires to position between Adah and Ruth.]

W. M.—Sister and Brothers of —— Chapter, does our sister express the emotions of your hearts when she says that those whose names she has written are held in loving remembrance?

Members.—Even so!

W. M.—Sister Associate Matron, what have you to offer?

A. M.—

[Proceeding to shrine and placing wreath over the star, so that same is encircled.]

This wreath, symbolizing in its endless form the vast cycle of God's eternal years, I place here as a token of our trust that the fraternal chain severed so often and so

rudely will one day be reunited where we shall miss no broken links.

[Retires to position between Esther and Martha.]

W. M.—My Sisters, “flowers are Love’s truest language,” and you have sweetly expressed the language of our hearts as we remember those we would honor at this time. As the presiding officer of this chapter, I place within the center of our memorial star these flowers, reminding us that loyalty to each other and our superior officers is the union by which alone we stand and render our labors beautiful, and that this is but a symbol of the loyalty we also owe to the Center of all light and life.

[Places cluster in center of star.]

You, my sisters, have placed your emblems testifying to the fidelity, the constancy, the purity, the immortality and the fervency of that love which reaches even beyond the grave.

[Taking white flower in her hand.]

This flower of purest white was, only a short time ago, a closely-sealed bud, the seed of which had to be planted in mother earth, or we could never have seen the glorious flower. Thus it was with the friends we mourn. The cold earth has received the human casket which we knew and loved, but Christianity teaches that Death is but an event in the grand march of the soul, and that that which is sown in corruption is raised in incorruption. In anticipation of the reunion hour I place this spotless flower as a last tribute to our fraternal dead.

[Places flower on top of star, and steps back to position between Adah and Electa—facing east.]

Worthy Patron, will you, who have so often officiated at this sacred altar, offer for the chapter renewed consecration.

[The Worthy Patron calls up chapter, and to slow music proceeds to west of altar. Worthy Matron and officers face altar.]

PRAYER.

O Father of Mercies, our only help in time of need with Whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, we give Thee thanks for the good examples of all Thy servants who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors. We humbly beseech Thee for grace to fulfill the duties we owe to each other and to Thee. Direct us in all our doings, and favor us with Thy continual help, that in every walk of life we may so follow the teachings of Thy dear Son that we, with all those who have departed in the true faith of Thy Holy Name, may be gathered in the land where Death comes not. Amen.

Response.—So may it ever be.

[Worthy Patron and other officers repair to stations, slow music.]

HYMN.

The weary labyrinth of earth
Has fewer hopes than fears,
Our path, e'en from our very birth,
Is clouded oft with tears ;
We clasp the warm, fraternal hand
Of friends we love and trust,
And lo ! they've reached the shadow-land,
Leaving with us—but dust.

Have we but Martha's earnest faith
To lift the funeral gloom,
We gain the victory over death
Through Him Who burst the tomb.
Christ points us to that city fair,
High walled, with pearly gate,
Within the many mansions there
His ransomed children wait.

We then will trust for His dear sake—
Till faith be lost in sight—
That those who sleep in Jesus wake
In God's eternal light.
His Star we see, Lord, let us come
With those who've gone before
To worship Him, and rest at home
Where partings are no more.

A. M.—Sisters and Brothers of ——— Chapter, we have received repeated assurances of the shortness of time and that every day man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.

Shall not these solemn lessons impress upon us the responsibility and grandeur of this life, which is but a vestibule to an unending existence ?

Response.—Even so.

A. M.—Worthy Matron, you have heard the response of this chapter ; let it comfort you with the assurance that we will all labor as never before for the great principles we are banded together to promote.

W. M.—It is well. In the trust that we go forth from this room with renewed loyalty to each other, and increased strength for the trials of life I declare this chapter of sorrow closed.

ANGELIC VISITORS.

COMPOSED FOR THE TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GENERAL GRAND
CHAPTER, O. E. S., SEPTEMBER, 1886, AND FRATEERNALLY
INSCRIBED TO MRS. ADDIE C. S. ENGLE, BY
ROB. MORRIS, POET LAUREATE.

If to our world dear lost ones would descend,
If Ruth and Martha would in kindness bend,
With Esther and Electa from the sky
And sanctify our harmony,
I think while in fraternal bonds we meet,
Our happiness [services], my sisters, were complete.

So hard is life, so anxious and unsure,
So much there is to combat and endure,
We need a greater than an earthly hope,
To buoy our dull, despondent spirits up ;
Oh, God, Thou fountain of all-perfect love,
Send messengers of comfort from above.

So shall the assembly of the Eastern Star,
Be like the gatherings where the angles are ;
So shall one perfect peace possess each heart
And give full consolation ere we part ;
While every evil thought shall fade away
And nought remain but one perpetual day.

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